

Focus on 5th



News and Events in the 5th Grade
February 14, 2011
www.op97.org

Important Dates

Feb. 17 Black History Month Presentation
Feb. 18 Muscular System Quiz
Feb. 21 No School - President's Day
Feb. 28 - Mar 4 ISAT Testing Week

Dear Families,

After weeks of anticipation, the students, families, and staff of Holmes School finally began reading *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. Last week we were introduced to Edward and the members of the Tulane family. With the exception of a drama caused by Rosie the dog and an incident with a vacuum cleaner, Edward's life was pretty uneventful until chapter five when he was accidentally thrown overboard the side of the Queen Mary while on its voyage to England. Poor Edward! What will become of this lovely rabbit?

Information was sent home either at conferences or will be sent home with your child this week *about 6th grade orientation as well as health and dental requirements. If you did not receive this week these forms you can find them on the Brooks Middle School homepage (<http://www.op97.org/brooks/index.html>). The P.E. uniform order forms were also sent home with your child last week. Please return the order form and payment to your child's homeroom teacher by this **Friday, February 18th**. The School Improvement Team at Brooks worked with Stephanie Grammens, the district's Web master, to create a new Web page on the school's site that offers fifth grade families information and resources they can use as they prepare to make the transition from elementary to middle school. You can access this page by visiting <http://www.op97.org/brooks/entering/index.html>.

SPECIALS

Physical Education

We will be having our **7th Annual Holmes Parents Vs. Holmes Staff fundraiser basketball game**. The game will take place on **March 19, 2011** at Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School. It will start at 7pm. Admissions is \$5 for adults, \$2 for children and \$10 for a family of 3 or more.

Spanish

Students acted out and videorecorded their latest story "El Cuerpo Malo de Simón" in groups. They will have a reading comprehension and listening quiz on the story next week.

Art

"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time" -Thomas Merton
Find out what's happening in the Art room every week by visiting Mr. Kristofer's new blog. Go to www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com or go to www.op97.org/holmes where the blog is featured under the "spotlight" section.

GTD

Take a look at the Holmes GTD wiki created by Ms. Circo.
<http://op97holmesgtd.wikispaces.com/Differentiation>



Reading/Literature

This will be our last week of our current novel study. Students will finish reading their novels and will begin their culminating projects which will be due on Monday, February 28th. 5P and 5Y will be focusing on refugees and their rights and protection since the characters in the *The Breadwinner* leave their home of Kabul. 5K and 5M will focus on the author's craft and discuss how they would rewrite the ending of the story so that there was stronger closure. After ISAT week, the classes will switch books and students will read the novels using the literature circle method.

Math

All 5th grade students must have a calculator, preferably a TI-15 calculator. Many students are coming to class without a calculator, and we do not have enough classroom calculators for students to borrow. Please remind your child to bring his/her calculator to school every day. If you would like to purchase a TI-15 calculator from the school, we still have a few left. The cost is \$15.

Graded unit tests went home last Thursday. Please review the test with your child. If a parent signature has been requested, please sign and have your child return the test to school. This week, we continue to work with graphing and data, focusing on stem and leaf plots, and analyzing sample data.

Science

This week, the students will be finishing up research on their chosen disease. We will also continue to discuss the muscular system, which the students will have a quiz on for Friday. The quiz will cover the function of the muscular system as a whole and the different types of muscles and their specific functions.

Social Studies

You may have seen your student playing *Do I Have a Right?* at home. It was a big hit at school and all classes really seemed to understand the amendments to the Constitution by Friday. This week we will study how a bill makes its way through our government to become a law. We will also begin a new unit on westward expansion.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack**
<http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
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